

Tape 27

Side A, 1/4 - 3/8

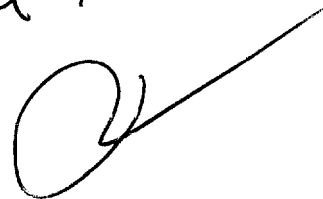
MEMO FOR: D/PA

17 OCT 1979

Tell PAO that I'd appreciate if they could exhume for me the Kissinger memoirs from the 15th and the article from a week ago Sunday's NEW YORK TIMES magazine section on an interview with Khomeini.

Copy PASSED TO D/PA

17 Oct.



## U.S. Resumes Overflights Of Cuba to Check Troops

By Jeremiah O'Leary  
Washington Star Staff Writer

The United States has resumed high-altitude aerial reconnaissance over Cuba, using the SR-71 Blackbird photo plane to monitor the area presumed to contain a combat brigade of Soviet troops, administration sources disclosed yesterday.

They said that the SR-71 plane, which flies in excess of 80,000 feet and is out of reach of ground defense or fighter plane interception, flew over Cuba last week and returned safely to its base. The SR-71 carries sophisticated photo and electronic equipment and reportedly is able to produce aerial photos of remarkable clarity for determining what is happening in areas that it scrutinizes.

Deployment of the SR-71, which produces photo and electronic intelligence for the CIA and Defense Department, was said to be a result of President Carter's declaration last week that the United States intends to closely monitor activities in Cuba, especially of the Soviet combat unit of about 2,000 men with associated tanks and artillery.

Carter suspended all SR-71 flights over Cuba after taking office in 1976. But administration sources said there was one sortie over Cuba in November 1978, when the U. S. learned that Russian MIG-23s had

been deployed to the Caribbean island.

The November mission was to determine whether the MIG-23s were capable of carrying nuclear weapons or were the series of Russian planes that can be used only as a high-speed jet fighter. Subsequently U. S. intelligence learned by several means that the MIG-23s in Cuba do not have the capability of carrying nuclear ordinance.

The SR-71 is the successor to the U-2, the high-altitude plane that provided much of American intelligence before the satellite began flying at the edge of space.